

# THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE

A MONTHLY

NO. 2

WINNIPEG, AUGUST, 1908

VOL. 1

ADDRESSED TO THE FARMERS OF



Published under the auspices and employed as the Official Organ of The Manitoba Grain Growers' Association.

ENDORSED BY THE INTERPROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF GRAIN GROWERS' AND FARMERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Designed to give publicity to the views of Western Farmers generally and to become the official mouthpiece of as many Farmers' Organizations throughout the "Three Prairie Provinces" as may apply for space therein.

Subscription price \$1.00 per year in advance.

Advertising rates on application.

Change of copy and new matter must be received not later than the 10th of each month.

Address all communications to

THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE, Winnipeg, Manitoba

NO. 2

AUGUST 1908

VOL. 1

## OURSELVES

In our initial number we gave our ideal of the place we would like to occupy as a Paper in the realm of journalism, as being a great Weekly Newspaper containing authentic accounts of all matters and movements of importance to farmers and other workers who bear the same relation to present day social and economic questions as farmers do. We also said that in its present form it is not capable of efficiently discharging the function of an opinion paper, or a newspaper, and therefore we speak of it as being only the initial step in the creation of a more efficient publication which will succeed it as soon as the support given it by the public will warrant. So soon as it becomes self-supporting as a monthly it will be converted into a semi-monthly, and after making good in that form will become a weekly. New features appropriate to its changed form will be added as the changes are made.

The census enumerator divides our people into two classes—rural and urban—broadly speaking, agricultural and commercial. In plainer terms—farmers and business men, or another distinction peculiarly applicable to Western Canada—producers of wealth and distributors of manufactured goods and middle men.

The ordinary newspaper for prudential reasons, in-

stinctively and fundamentally on all questions, social and economic takes the view-point of the business man; we will take the view-point of the farmer. The business idea is "The farmer is prosperous and can stand it." The farmers say there is no justice in that idea and demand a change of condition, not because of poverty, but because it is right and just and honest.

The function of the agricultural press has been, and still continues to be, to stimulate production. Our energies will be directed to facilitate and cheapen the cost of distribution. Much effort has been put forth to help the farmer to increase his output, but the distribution of his product has been left to the tender mercy of combinations of middle-men, the result of which can be illustrated by a recent concrete case. Last year, due to abnormal conditions, the Western farmers had a large quantity of grain only fit for feeding purposes for which there was a large demand in the Eastern Provinces, where, on account of the dry season, feed of all kinds was scarce. Through our system of distribution, wheat that the Manitoba farmer sold for 25c a bushel was paid for by the Ontario farmer at 65 to 70 cents a bushel in car lots, and 75 to 80 cents when chopped feed. The railways got 22c a bushel, leaving that wheat from average points in Manitoba to Ontario points, the dealers got the rest. Our paper is in an effort to remove that hiatus between producer and the consumer. It is our deliberate intention that nowhere are the profits of grain raising so well applied, so justly merited and where the consumer will be so well calculated to promote general prosperity as right among those who have raised the grain. Give these men all that is coming to them, and let them have the benefit of every doubt, and you will have nothing but simple justice, and at the same time a country on a basis of perpetual prosperity.

We differ from our colleagues in another column—"The farm papers have secured their usefulness." While we agree that the ground we propose to occupy has some useful purpose in their own eyes, their work is not yet done. So we hope to continue side by side with them, each contributing a share to the general good in its own sphere of activity. We do not think that our good farm papers would be fewer homes because of our advent in the field of journalism.

While primarily dealing with the conditions and features of our great national industry, and the secure improvement of physical conditions of our homes, and aiding reforms, we recognize that the highest life is only found by the development of the intellectual character; that the man who follows the path of the Creator has within his grasp the very best of life; that the gift of the Creator; that Canadian farmer, like a noble of being on a level with the highest of comfort and refinement enjoyed in the world of universal progress. Our purpose will be to devote much of our space to raising the intellectual and moral phase of Western life